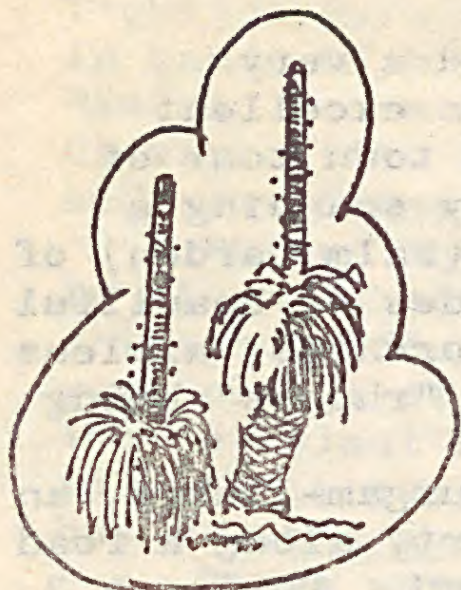




BALLARAT FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB.

EXCURSION/NEWS SHEET - JULY 1977.

President: Mr. G. Binns Ph. 323670
Vice-pres: Mr. L. Fink 861319
Secretary: Miss H. Burgess 312210
Treasurer: Mr. S. Reynolds 327721

Meetings held in the Biology Section at the School of Mines, Lydiard St. Sth. at 8 p.m. first Friday of each month. (Unless otherwise stipulated, e.g. July 1977.)

NEXT MEETING: 1st July - Mr. Austin McCallum - Natural History Reference Collection. To be held at the Central Library, Camp St. at 8 p.m. Members meet at library door a little before 8 p.m. (No supper).

MEETING 5th AUGUST: Mr. K. Llewellyn - "Fossils."

EXCURSION 3rd JULY: This is to be a working bee at the Bird Observer's Club block at Linton, led by Mr. G. Clarke. Please bring mattocks, rakes, hoes or anything suitable for clearing and grubbing. An all day happening, leaving Crockers at 9.30 a.m. (Bring your own lunch). For persons wanting to go for the afternoon only, a map is provided on the agenda sheet to give directions. Last year was a happy and productive day. Be in it this year too, you won't be sorry!

EXCURSION 5th AUGUST: Maryborough Area, with Maryborough Field Naturalists' Club.

"ROAMING AROUND EUROPE" with Peter and Edna Fry.

Last year Edna and Peter spent several months abroad, including 82 days touring Europe. Apart from the flights there and back, they travelled some 11,000 kms by coach, covering England, Scotland from South to North and back, Wales, Ireland and the continent as far as Vienna. They also walked about 400 miles.

At our June meeting Peter illustrated a very interesting commentary on his travels with excellent slides taken throughout Europe. During a town tour of Frankfurt they learned much of the history spanning a period of 2,000 years. The Palmengarten (Palm Garden) of 200 acres employed a staff of 70, and slides of beautiful calceolaria, many varieties of ferns and orchids, azaleas and rhododendrons were shown, some of the "rhodos" being 150 years old.

A full day was spent touring Rothenburgam-Tauber, an ancient town some 200 kms S.E. of Frankfurt, along a road formerly a Crusader's route to the Holyland. During a 3 hour walking tour led by a schoolmaster who could trace his family back to 910 A.D., much of the areas entrancing history was absorbed. Also noted was the lace making in Brussels and the beautiful Cologne Cathedral and the headquarters of the well known perfume "Eau-De-Cologne 4711".

Another tour took the Frys via Weisbaden to Rudesheim and their first look at the Loreley, a 900 ft. cliff at the narrowest and deepest part of the Rhine. A second look was obtained from the "Europa" whilst cruising to Rotterdam, and a third look at the Rhine on a tour to Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Lucerne. The scenery was magnificent, many beautiful castles, mountains, vineyards, gardens, lakes; and the singing of the Pilgrimage Choir something to remember. A tour of Paris was included, also many cities not named in this short account of Peter's most comprehensive talk on the Fry's trip.

JUNE EXCURSION.

In winter sunshine, on Sunday June 5th, 21 members travelled to Nerrina and explored the bushland in search of fungi. Due to the large number of fungi found, only two stops were made for the afternoon.

Some agaric fungi identified were:-

Cortinarius austro-venetus, Cortinarius caesiocyaneus,
Cortinarius auro-turbinatus, Russula emetica,
Hypholoma fasciculare, Psilocybe semilanceate (liberty caps)
and Galera hypnorum.

Some fungi without gills were:-

Trametes cinnabarina (orange tones)

Trametes versicolor (rainbow fungus - attractively zoned in bands of brown and white),
Ramaria ochraceo - salmonicolor (the edible coral fungus),
Clavaria (the flame fungus).
and some Tremella (the jolly fungus, white form).

During the afternoon botanists noted Epacris impressa in bloom, the color varying from white through to pink and crimson to deep scarlet. Quite spectacular in the area were clumps of the Small Grass-tree, Xanthorrhoea minor. Another plant studied was Oxylobium procumbens, the trailing shaggy pea, identified by its ovate leaves, prostrate bushy habit and hairy, long pods.

Birds were rather scarce - on the outward trip, a white faced heron noted, and through the bush, scarlet and yellow robins and brown Thornbills.

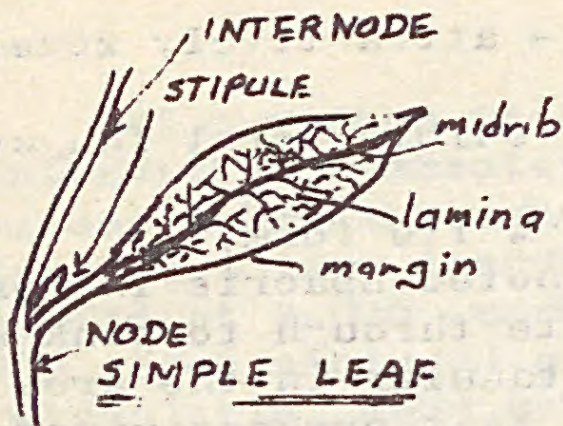
A day thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Contributed by Mrs. P. Murphy.

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY
AT SCHOOL OF MINES MEETING ROOM.

1. November 1976 Edition of "Geelong Naturalist", Vol. 13, No. 3. Very good article "Focusing on the Brisbane Ranges" by Ted Errey, and plant list of the Brisbane Ranges. Also "Birds in an Ocean Grove Garden" by Clare Jones. Lots of other interesting reading.
2. May/June 1977 Edition of "The Victorian Naturalist", Vol. 94, No. 3. Published by the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria.
3. "A Coastal Retreat" - The Victorian Public Interest Research Group Ltd., c/o Monash University (1977). A most comprehensive book.

Editorial Panel: S. Bedggood, G. Binns, B. Gray.
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SIMPLE LEAF

COMPOUND LEAVES



TRIFOLIOLATE



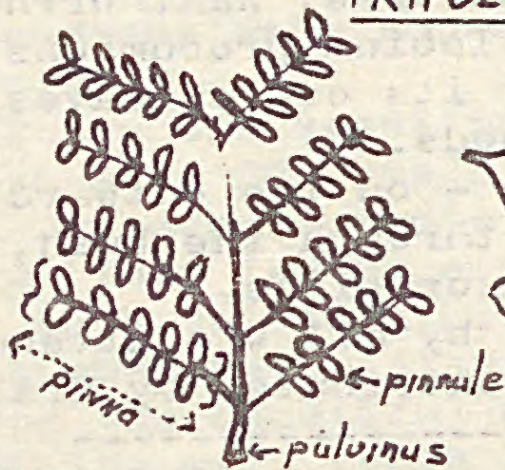
PALMATE



PARIPINNATE
{ OR EVEN PINNATE



IMPARIPINNATE
or ODD PINNATE



BIPINNATE

— ENTIRE

— SINUATE

— CRENUULATE

— CRENATE

SERRULATE

SERRATE

DENTATE

RETROSE

LEAF EDGES

CLEFT



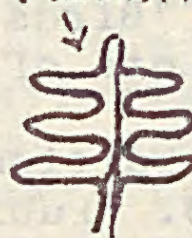
INCISED



LOBED



PINNATIFID



PALMATIFID



DEEPLY DIVIDED

LEAF EDGES

ALTERNATE



DISTICHMOUS



OPPOSITE



WHORLED DECUSSATE



LEAVES ARRANGED
IN A SPIRAL

LEAVES ARRANGED
IN TWO OPPOSITE
ROWS

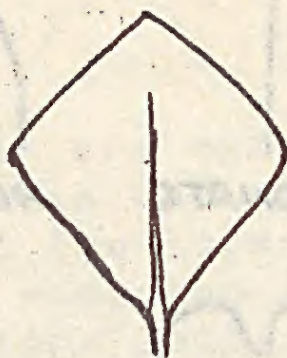
LEAVES
FORMING TWO
OPPOSITE ROWS

EACH PAIR
OF LEAVES AT
RIGHT ANGLES
TO THE NEXT

LEAF ARRANGMENTS



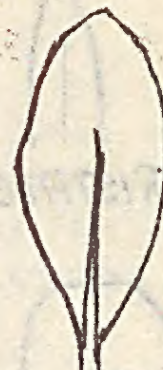
ORBICULAR



RHOMBOIDAL



OVAL



ELLIPTICAL



OBLONG



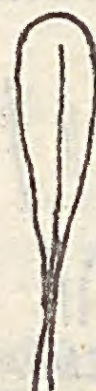
OBOVATE



CUNEATE



SPATHULATE



OBLANCEOLATE



LINEAR



LANCEOLATE



OVATE



SUBULATE



FALCATE



CORDATE



SAGITTATE



HASTATE



DELTOID

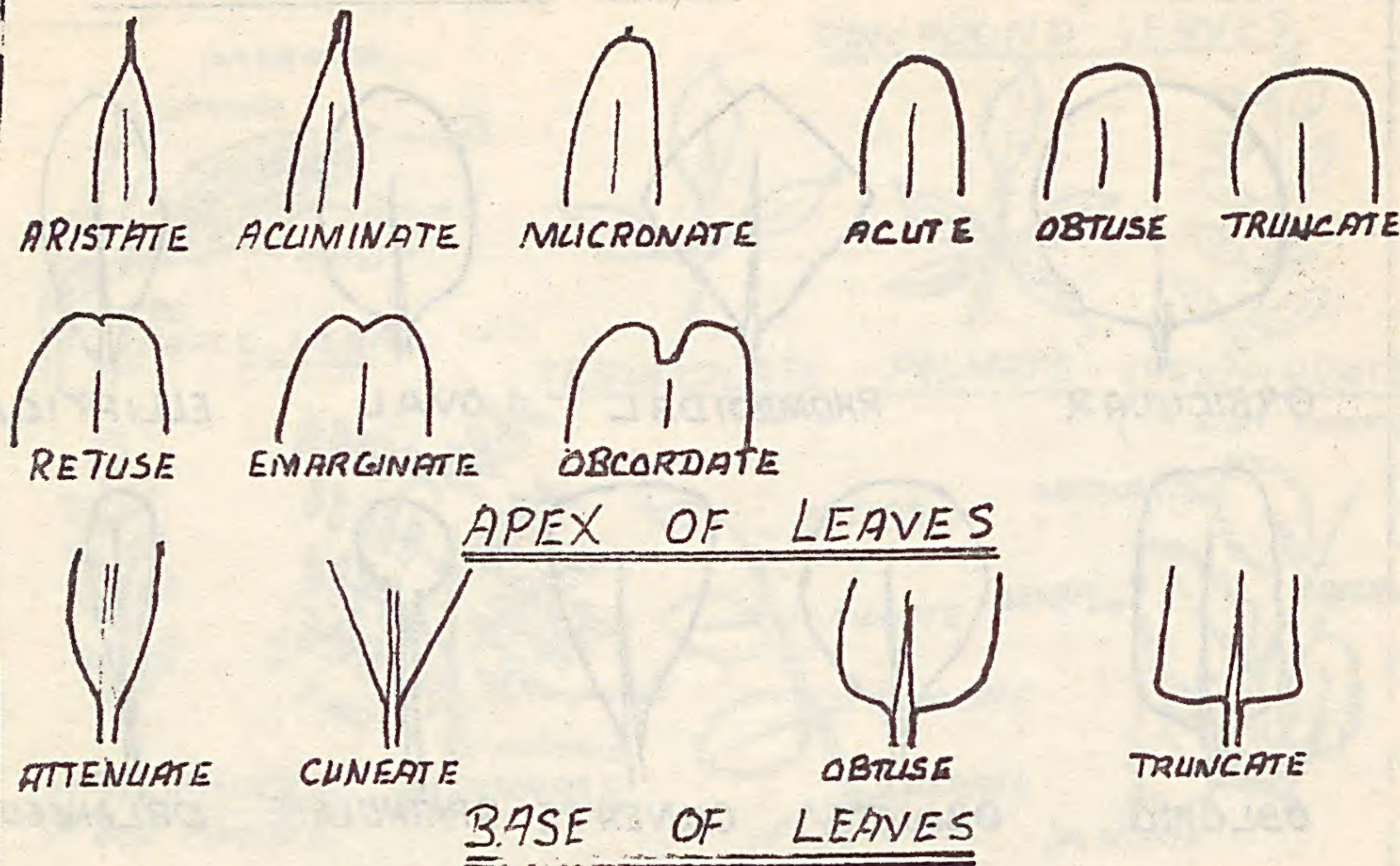


RENIFORM



PELTATE

LEAF SHAPES



LEAVES.

S. Bedggood.

It is important to understand terms used to describe differing leaf shapes, leaf edges, and leaf arrangements. Some of the various types are illustrated in this article. These may help members to recognise one plant from another.

A leaf is a lateral appendage of the shoot system. The point where the leaf joins the stem is called the axil. A leaf consists of the lamina, a flat expanse of green cells, the petiole or stalk, and a leaf base, which is a small swelling where the petiole joins the stem. In dicotyledons the veins form a reticulated system branching out from the midrib. In monocotyledons the veins are parallel and joined at the base of the leaf blade. In acacias the lamina is missing, except in seedlings, the petiole or stalk is flattened, and is called a phyllode.

LEAVES - (continued)

Leaves without a stalk are said to be sessile. A leaf is simple when its blade is undivided. Some simple leaves are deeply lobed, but the lobes do not extend completely to the midrib. In a compound leaf the blade is divided into a number of smaller leaflets each having the appearance of a separate simple leaf.

RARE BIRD SURVIVAL BATTLE ON. FROM DENNIS WEDDERELL, in WELLINGTON, N.Z.

"The Red Data Book of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources includes, in its list of world's rare and endangered birds, 32 New Zealand species or subspecies. These represent nearly 10 per cent of the world's total of rare and endangered birds and just over 25 % of all New Zealand's endemic birds". For sheer impact, that introduction to the 1976 report of the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs would be hard to beat.

New Zealanders have always known that their country is a place for odd birds. The kiki, after all, is one of our national symbols; a flightless nocturnal bird that comparatively few of us have seen. Even in zoos they are fussy about the light, and, not surprisingly, hard to entice into public view.

Then there was the moa, a man-sized bird, rather like a heavily-built ostrich, which was finally done to death by early Maoris in search of meat.

The huia, whose tail feathers grace some ancient Maori ceremonial cloaks, was an especially gracious bird. It died out in early years of European settlement.

Then there is the Takahe. Its rediscovery, in 1948, was one of the brighter notes in this country's record of wildlife protection, but the news is not so good now. When found again, in the remote fiordland of the southwest of the South Island, it had been thought extinct since the 19th century. But after nearly 30 years of subsequent observation it is clear that, while the takahe population fluctuates, it is declining overall. Efforts to raise the Takahe in captivity, at the Mount Bruce Native Bird

Reserve in the North Island, have not been successful.

The takahe has been described as a Clydesdale pukeko, a heavier and bigger version of the common swamp hen, a lively, cheeky, blue-black plumaged bird with a bright red beak and long red legs. The pukeko quite often nests around ponds and lakes in built-up areas, and is common in farmlands.

The Kakapo, a flightless parrot was thought, until recently, to be extinct. Fewer than 10 of these birds have been found, and all were believed to be males.

The third project helped by the World Wildlife Fund is the protection of the Chatham Islands robin. The black robin is believed to have ranged at one time throughout the Chatham Islands, but until this year, was confined to Little Mangere Island. The wildlife service says that "infrequent reports have indicated a constant population from 1936, to until recently, of about 20-30 pairs."

The wildlife service believes there is hope for most of New Zealand's endangered species, provided their habitats are cared for. That means keeping the bush cover, where required, and keeping out rats and other ground-living pests. Which is why transfer to Mount Bruce or to offshore islands, may offer the best prospects.

LONGEVITY OF BIRDS.

How long do birds live? Some interesting facts have been revealed by the records of the bird banding scheme throughout Australia. It is evident that size does not seem to affect longevity of birds. With the exception of the magpie, all the birds in the random group listed below weighed between 7 grams (Thornbill) and 70 grams (Wattle bird). The bird ages in years represent the longest time elapse between banding and most recent capture. Magpie 20, White browed scrub wren 15, fuscous honeyeater 14, brown thornbill 12, white naped honeyeater 13, rufous whistler 12, little wattlebird 11, silvereye 10, superb blue wren 9.

Extract - ECOS publication.

ERRATA - Syllabus Card 1977 - 78.

Please note that excursions dates for August and September should read: August 7, September 11.